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ABSTRACT

The breakdown of marriage within American society is a serious problem as evidenced by high divorce rates and numerous separations and family problems. A Marriage Values Questionnaire, developed to determine reasons for marrying and staying married and the impact of religion on marital stability, was completed by 305 subjects, ranging in age from 18 to 80 and married from 2 weeks to 60 years. Data were analyzed by age, sex, ethnic group, educational level, religious preference, and level of religious commitment. Results indicated that men and women marry and remain married for the same reasons with love as the most highly rated reason. Individuals at the graduate-work educational level ranked sexual attractiveness, education and intelligence of mate, educational similarity, and emotional stability significantly higher than high school graduates. Marital satisfaction decreased for women after the birth of children and was greater for religious persons than for nonbelievers. (NRB)

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MARITAL VALUES AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MARRIAGE STABILITY

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Current statistics indicate that ninety percent of all American citizens will marry during their adult life (Coleman, 1969). The primary relationship of adult life is that of marriage. Historically, marriage stands as the cornerstone of society and the foundation of the home. It is through the family that society is able to expect and receive from the individual his necessary contribution (Goode, 1964).

The institution of marriage is in trouble as evidenced by high and increasing divorce rates, and coupled with numerous separations short of divorce and incompatabilities within the families. Modern complexities make for added confusion and tension in marriage (Christensen, 1950). The breakdown of marriage within our society is a serious problem, and this study was undertaken to determine the impact of religion upon marriage stability.

The primary purpose of this study is to investigate "marriage values" and determine why people marry, stay married and how they describe their present marital relationship. Closely allied is the desire to see what

significant religious commitment and values make on marriage stability and satisfaction.

Description of the Questionnaire

The "Marriage Values" Questionnaire (Appendix A), was developed with the intent of collecting information concerning marital values and factors associated with marriage stability. Hill (1945) and McGinnis (1958) conducted research on campus values in mate selection. From their questionnaire and research methods, York (1978) and Jones (1979) replicated and expanded the work. The "Marriage Values" Questionnaire used the pattern for background information and some of the values and marital factors listed on the original Hill (1945) study. Demographic data included age, ethnic group, sex, state residency, marital status, length of marriage, educational level, virgin or non-virgin at marriage, and religious preference.

Questions asked that the subjects rate each marital value with a scale of 6 to 1. The following is an explanation of the scale: 6--most important; 5--above average importance; 4--average importance; 3--below average; 2--least importance; 1--no importance at all. The Hill (1945) and McGinnis (1958) studies were used to determine the rating scale that would provide consistency between the

York (1978) and Jones (1979) research and the current study. In rating marital satisfaction before and after children, a scale from 1 to 5 was used with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. When children no longer lived at home, subjects were asked to rate their marriage on a scale of 1-5. One represented that the marriage was better, 3 the marriage stayed the same, and 5 the marriage became worse.

Description of the Subjects

Completed questionnaires of 305 subjects between the ages of 18 and 80 were analyzed. This number was composed of 121 men and 184 women. The ethnic background of the subjects was broken down into 271 Caucasians, 30 Negroes, and 4 Others. Educational levels ranged from 25 subjects with high school or below, 48 with high school degrees, 124 with vocational school or college, 40 with college degrees, and 68 with graduate work. The marital status was composed of 270 married, 13 separated, 9 remarried, and 13 widowed. The data revealed that 129 were virgins at marriage and 176 were non-virgins. The religious preferences of the subjects included 247 Protestants, 10 Catholics, and 48 Others. The range for length of marriage was from two weeks to 60 years.

Subjects were grouped in the following age levels: 18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56 and above. The length of marriage was divided into the following years: 0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41 and above.

Data was gathered in the Middle Tennessee area by attending churches, knocking on doors of homes, collecting questionnaires from people in the area for a national meeting, and asking college students in classes at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee to complete the instrument.

Design of Experiment

An analysis of variance was used to compare each of the 38 marital values and factors and each of the independent variables (sex, age, ethnic groups, educational levels, religious groups, and religious commitment).

Results

An analysis of variance was applied to each variable in the "Marriage Values" Questionnaire yielding mean scores, F-ratio, and probability for the comparison.

For the 305 subjects who participated, the following is a rank order of the five most important reasons why people marry: (1) mutual attraction and love, (2) dependable character of mate, (3) sexual attractiveness and fulfillment, (4) desire for home and children, and (5) companionship (see Table 1).

In describing their present marital relationship, the participants listed the following as the five best descriptions of their marriages: (1) love relationship, (2) companionate relationship, (3) complete happiness and satisfaction, (4) comfortable relationship, (5) compassionate and romantic (see Table 2).

To the question, "Why do you stay married?," the total sample population indicated their top five reasons were: (1) love, (2) children, (3) security, (4) physical attraction, and (5) religious reasons (see Table 3).

TABLE 1

Rank Order for Total Sample Population

Reasons for Marriage	Means
Mutual attraction and love	5.269
Dependable character of mate	5.144
Sexual attractiveness and fulfillment	4.403
Desire for home and children	4.397
Companionship	4.364
Emotional stability of mate	4.039
Education and intelligence of mate	3.951
Security	3.649
Similarity in religion	3.525
Similarity in education	3.325
Favorable social status of mate	2.797
Good financial prospect	2.764
"Expected" of family and society to marry	2.170
Business and economic reasons	2.131

TABLE 2

Rank Order for Total Sample Population

Description of Present Marital Relationship	Means
Love relationship	5.020
Companionate relationship	4.936
Complete happiness and satisfaction	4.707
Comfortable relationship	4.569
Compassionate and romantic	4.354
Economic arrangement	3.428
Stressful situation	2.101
Unrewarding	1.717
Unhappy relationship	1.687
Total indifference	1.532
Hostile	1.387
Violent	1.380

TABLE 3

Rank Order for Total Sample Population

Reasons People Stay Married	Means
Love	5.345
Children	4.191
Security	3.744
Physical attractiveness	3.577
Religious reasons	3.433
Sexual outlet	3.072
Economic reasons	2.823
Family or parental expectations	2.413
Status	2.352
Social reasons	2.225
Health	2.116
Business reasons	1.915

Differences By Sex

In comparing males and females on reasons for marriage, the research shows that the only significant differences were first, women considered the financial prospect of their mates more than men; and second, women married for companionship more than men. The desire for a home and children were more important to women than men (see Table 4).

TABLE 4

Mean Comparison of Males and Females

Reasons for Marriage	Males (121)	Females (184)	Probability
Desire for home and children	4.165	4.548	.039
Good financial Prospect	2.237	3.108	.001*
Companionship	4.247	4.440	.001*

*$p < .001$

In describing their present marital relationship the only two areas of significant difference were that women described their marriages more as economic and comfortable than men (see Table 5).

Men and women stay married because of love, children, physical attraction, and religion. Females indicated more importance for security, economic reasons and business

than males. Men indicated that sexual outlet was more important to them than to women (see Table 6).

TABLE 5

Mean Comparison of Males and Females

Description of Present Marital Relationship	Males	Females	Probability
Economic Arrangement	3.191	3.587	.034
Comfortable relationship	4.275	4.768	.005

TABLE 6

Mean Comparison of Males and Females

Reasons People Stay Married	Males	Females	Probability
Economic Arrangement	2.435	3.079	.002
Security	3.307	4.034	.001*
Business Reasons	1.692	2.062	.025
Sexual Outlet	3.359	2.880	.016

*$p \leq .001$

Differences By Age Groups

The age groups were divided into five sections; 18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 55 and above. Test results showed significant differences between the age groups as to why they married. The subjects between 46-55 years old stated

that a desire for home and children was important with a mean of 4.711, while the 55 and above group showed a mean of 3.907. It was anticipated that the youngest group would have less desire for home and children, but the older individuals rated it of less importance. The age group 36-45 rated "financial prospect" significantly higher when compared to the 46-55 age group who expressed that marital value was least important. Sexual attractiveness and fulfillment revealed a significant difference at the .001 level between the age groups. The subjects between 26-35 rated sexual attractiveness higher (4.600) than the other age groups, particularly the 55 age group who gave it an average rating of 3.697. Mutual attraction and love showed significant difference between the 18-25 age group who rated it 5.447 for marrying for love, and the 46-55 age group who rated love 4.800. Education and intelligence of mate received the highest rating by the 26-35 age group with a mean of 4.174 and the 55 and above group rated it the lowest with a mean of 3.465. In determining why people marry, it was expected that the older subjects would marry for security and the younger age group would rate it of little or no importance. The results of the present study did not support this. The participants between the ages of 18-25 rated security 4.065 and the older subjects rated it 2.720 (see Table 7).

TABLE 7

Mean Comparison by Age Groups

Reasons People Marry	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	55-above	Prob.
Home and Children	4.065	4.639	4.600	4.711	3.907	.017
Financial Prospect	2.684	3.069	3.090	2.200	2.465	.015
Sexual Attractiveness	4.473	4.732	4.600	4.088	3.697	.001
Education and Intelligence of Mate	4.026	4.174	4.145	3.622	3.465	.045
Security	4.065	4.023	3.543	3.244	2.720	.001
Mutual Attraction, Love	5.467	5.360	5.381	4.800	5.116	.029

People appear to stay married for different reasons. Comparison between the different age groups revealed children, security, status, physical attractiveness and health to be significantly different. Ages 36-45 stay married for the children more than the other groups, with the 18-25 age group indicating children were not an important factor for staying married. Security rated highest among the 18-25 age group with a 3.986 mean and the 46-55 age group

rated security at 2.954. Status was not important to the 18-25 age group, but yielded significant difference for the 26-35 age group. Physical attraction was significantly different between the 18-25 age group who rated it 4.039 and the 46-55 age group who gave it a mean of 2.909 (see Table 8).

TABLE 8

Mean Comparison by Age Groups

Reasons People Stay Married	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	55-above	Prob.
Children	3.052	4.788	4.811	4.363	4.200	.001
Security	3.986	3.917	3.867	2.954	3.515	.019
Status	1.973	2.694	2.641	2.000	2.457	.041
Physical Attraction	4.039	2.600	3.811	2.909	3.028	.002
Health	1.776	2.188	2.415	1.727	2.685	.013

Differences Between Ethnic Groups

In comparison of ethnic backgrounds, reasons for marriage varied. Caucasians ranked desire for home and children with a mean of 4.391 while "Others" rated this item 2.75. A good financial prospect appeared to be more important to "Others." In rating reasons for marriage,

"Others" listed sexual attractiveness and fulfillment 4.750, with Negroes showing a mean of 3.400. A significant difference was revealed between Negroes and "Others" in marrying for business and economic reasons. "Others" listed a mean of 3.250 with Negroes showing a low of 1.400. Another interesting difference was obtained from the research in the area of mutual attraction and love. "Others" rated love as 5.500 and Caucasians gave it a mean of 5.376 compared to the Negroes' rating of 4.266 (see Table 9).

TABLE 9

Mean Comparison by Ethnic Groups

Reasons People Marry	Caucasian	Negroes	Others	Prob.
Home and Children	4.391	4.666	2.750	.013
Financial Prospect	2.833	1.966	4.000	.018
Sexual Attractiveness	4.509	3.400	4.750	.046
Business and Economic	2.195	1.400	3.250	.011
Mutual love and Attraction	5.376	4.266	5.500	.032

No significant differences appeared between the ethnic groups describing their present marital relationship. However, one difference was revealed in why they stay married. Physical attractiveness rated 4.500 with "Others."

Caucasians indicated a mean of 3.673, and Negroes showed a low of 2.506. This was significant at the .037 level.

Differences by Educational Levels

Educational levels were broken into five groups: (1) high school or below, (2) high school degree, (3) some college and vocational training, (4) college degree, (5) graduate work. The differences between the educational levels proved significant at the .001 level. In four out of six variables subjects with graduate work rated the variable higher than subjects with high school or below. Sexual attractiveness, education and intelligence of mate, similarity in education, and emotional stability were rated significantly higher for persons with graduate work than individuals with high school or below (see Table 10).

TABLE 10

Mean Comparison by Education Levels

Reasons People Marry	High School or Below	Graduate Work	Probability
Sexual Attractiveness	3.520	4.617	.001
Education and Intelligence	2.720	4.411	.001
Similarity in Education	3.000	3.588	.031
Emotional Stability	3.000	4.352	.001

Subjects with some college or vocational training rated mutual attraction and love 5.419 as compared to 4.320 for persons with high school or below. This was significant at the .001 level. People with college degrees marry more for companionship than the other levels of education with the greatest difference being between persons with high school or below and college education. Subjects with high school or below education rated companionship 3.320 and persons with a college degree rated it 4.550. This was significant at the .001 level.

In describing their present marital relationship, three significant differences appeared. Persons with college or vocational training rated higher than subjects with high school or below the three variables of companionate relationships, love relationships, and compassionate and romantic (see Table 11).

TABLE 11

Mean Comparison by Education Levels

Description of Present Marital Relationship	High School or Below	College/ Vocational	Prob.
Companionate	4.041	5.056	.002
Love Relationship	4.333	4.617	.001
Compassionate and Romantic	3.166	4.617	.001

Significant test results showed a difference in two areas as to why people stay married. People with college degrees rated physical attractiveness and sexual outlet higher than the other educational levels with individuals with high school or below rating these marital values the lowest (see Table 12).

TABLE 12

Mean Comparison by Education Levels

Reasons People Stay Married	High School or Below	College Degree	Prob.
Physical Attraction	2.391	3.891	.001
Sexual Outlet	2.217	3.405	.012

Differences by Religious Group

Analysis between Protestants, Catholics, and "Others" did not yield the significant results expected. Only two marital vlues showed a significant difference between the religious groups. Catholics rated education and intelligence of mate at a mean of 4.600 while "Others" rated the value at a mean of 3.744 and this was significant at .01 level. Catholics rated companionship of below average importance with a mean of 3.600 which was significant at .014 level. An interesting observation of the data shows

that Catholics give a higher rating to a majority of the marriage values than Protestants and "Others."

In describing their present marital relationship, Catholics gave companionate relationship a mean of 5.500 with Protestants yielding a mean of 4.924 and this was significant at the .003 level. While it was expected that Catholics would rate religious reasons for staying married higher than the other two classifications the data revealed that "Others" rated it at a mean of 3.608 with Catholics showing a mean of 2.400. This was significant at the .02 level.

Differences by Religious Commitments

A major hypothesis of this research was that significant differences exist between the marriage of Christians or religious people as compared to unbelievers, skeptics or unconcerned individuals and that marital values and factors associated with marriage stability would vary between the levels of religious commitment. To evaluate religious commitment, the research combined the first and second choices that best described the subject's religious involvement and compared these choices to each marital value. In analyzing reasons for marriage, three marital values showed a significant difference between the groups. The Spirit-filled/Charismatic group rated business and economic reasons as unimportant with a mean of 1.76 and "Others" showed a mean of 2.923. To be expected, similarity in religion

rated highest among born-again believers and Spirit-filled/ Charismatic with means of 4.607 and 4.233 respectively and with unbelievers and the unreligious yielded means of 2.181 and 2.235 respectively. Education and intelligence of mate rated highest among the religious and lowest among the born-again believers (see Table 13).

TABLE 13

Mean Comparison by Religious Commitment

Reasons People Marry	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 8	Prob.
Business & Economic		1.766			2.923	.006
Similarity in Religion	4.607			2.235		.001
Education/ Intelligence	3.357		4.760			.003

Note: A description of the groups are as follows:
Group 3--born again believers
Group 4--Spirit-filled/Charismatics
Group 5--religious
Group 6--unbelievers, skeptics, unconcerned
Group 8--Other

The description of present marital satisfaction produced evidence for the hypothesis that there are differences in the success and happiness of marriages between Christians and unbelievers. In describing their marriages, the terms

unhappy, unrewarding, hostile and total indifference in the relationship, furnished significant differences between unbelievers, and regular church attenders, Christians, and the religious. See Table 14 for mean comparisons between unbelievers and Christians, regular church attenders, and the religious.

TABLE 14

Mean Comparison by Religious Commitment

Description of Present Marital Relationship	Group 1	Group 2	Group 5	Group 6	Group 8	Prob.
Violent	1.134				1.900	.016
Unhappy			1.125	2.409		.003
Unrewarding			1.312	2.409		.001
Hostile	1.307			2.812		.001
Total In-difference		1.229		2.136		.006

Note: A description of the groups are as follows:
Group 1--regular church attenders
Group 2--Christians
Group 5--religious
Group 6--unbelievers, skeptics, unconcerned
Group 8--Other

Reasons for staying married differed between the groups and religious reasons were rated the highest by Spirit-filled/ Charismatic individuals with a mean of 5.300 and lowest among

unbelievers with a mean of 1.636 which was significant at the .001 level. Security ranked highest with unbelievers and lowest with "Others." Health rated highest with "Others" and lowest with the religious (see Table 15).

TABLE 15

Mean Comparison by Religious Commitment

Reasons People Stay Married	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 8	Probability
Religious Reasons	5.300		1.636		.001
Security			4.409	3.363	.051
Health		1.533		3.090	.001

Note: A description of the groups are as follows:
Group 4--Spirit-filled/Charismatics
Group 5--religious
Group 6--unbelievers, skeptics, unconcerned
Group 8--Other

Children and Marital Satisfaction

Marital satisfaction before and after children were born was rated with a 1-5 scale. One noted maximum satisfaction and 5 no satisfaction. Marital satisfaction before children were born rated at a mean of 1.906 for the total sample population with 1 being the highest rating. After children were born marital satisfaction slightly decreased to a mean of 1.962.

Comparison of males and females revealed a significant difference in rating the marriage after the children were born. Men indicated the marriage improved, and women indicated marital satisfaction decreased.

Caucasians rated satisfaction at a mean of 1.918 before children were born and 1.951 after children were born. The research showed that Negroes experienced a slight decrease in marital satisfaction after children were born.

Slight differences occurred between Protestants, Catholics, and Others with the advent of children. Protestants rated their marital satisfaction lower after children were born and greater after they were grown and left home. Catholics indicated marital satisfaction 2.200 before children, and 2.600 after children which shows a decrease. Others indicated slight improvement after children were born.

In comparing the effects of children on marriage, the degree of religious commitment produced significant differences. Before children were born the born-again believers rated their marriages 1.625 with "Others" rating marital satisfaction 2.000. After children were born, born-again believers indicated an improvement in their marriage with a mean of 1.500 while unbelievers evidenced a significant decrease in marital satisfaction to a mean of 2.846 (see Table 16).

TABLE 16

Mean Comparison of The Effect of Children on Marriage

Comparison Breakdowns	Before Children	After Children
Total sample population	1.906	1.962
Sex:		
Males	1.870	1.752
Females	1.929	2.102
Ethnic Background:		
Caucasian	1.918	1.951
Negro	1.840	2.040
Other	1.666	2.000
Religious Preference:		
Protestant	1.876	1.955
Catholic	2.200	2.600
Other	1.930	1.785
Religious Commitment:		
Born-again Believers	1.625	1.500
Other	3.000	2.846

Satisfaction with one's marriage after the children left home was rated with a 1-5 scale. A rating of 1 evidenced the marriage was better, 3 the same and 5 worse. For the total sample population, if the children were no longer living at home, the relationship improved slightly. Caucasians revealed a mean of 2.609 after the children left home which shows an increase in marital satisfaction. The research shows that Negroes experienced a slight decrease in marital satisfaction after children left home. Catholics rated marriage happiness at a mean of 3.000 after children left home which shows a stabilization of contentment.

The research yielded interesting data concerning marital satisfaction after the children left home when compared by religious commitment. The unbelievers rated their marital staisfaction highest since marriage showing a 1.666 mean which shows tremendous improvement in the relationship, while the religious showed a low of 4.000 to indicate greater dissatisfaction in the marriage (see Table 17).

Since 3 represented no change in marital satisfaction with children leaving home, a mean of 2.714 indicates a movement toward increase in marital happiness for the total population.

TABLE 17

Mean Comparison of the Effect of Children on Marriage

Marital Satisfaction When Children No Longer Live at Home	
Total sample population	2.714
Sex:	
Males	2.750
Females	2.693
Ethnic Background:	
Caucasian	2.609
Negro	3.333
Other	2.000
Religious Preference:	
Protestant	2.703
Catholic	3.000
Other	2.700
Religious Commitment:	
Religious	4.000
Unbelievers	1.666

Summary

Discussion and Conclusions

An important purpose of this study was to determine if men and women marry and stay married for the same reasons and how they rate their present marital relationship. It was hypothesized that there would be significant differences between the two groups. However, the research revealed that men and women in fact do marry and remain married for basically the same reasons. Women tend to emphasize a need for financial stability in a mate and a greater desire for companionship in marriage, and as expected, women have a greater desire for a home and children. Sheechy's (1976) research shows that men who married in their twenties, married because of the expectations from family and society. This study revealed that expectations of family and society ranked 13th out of 14 reasons for marriage. The "Playboy Report on American Men" (1979) cited having another person to share one's live, to have someone to share important life experiences with, and a need to have and raise children as the most important reasons why men marry.

The significant differences between age groups provide interesting results. It was expected the above 55 age group would marry for home and children, but the data revealed the opposite. Younger subjects who had been married for a shorter length of time rated mutual attraction and love significantly higher than the 46-55 age group. Security was rated significantly higher for the 16-25 age group than the older subjects. Ages 35-45 rated children as an important reason to stay married. Child rearing years fall into this category.

A major difference between Caucasians, Negroes, and "Others" was the importance placed on marrying for sexual attraction and fulfillment and economic and business reasons. "Others" showed a significantly higher interest in these areas than Negroes.

An overall higher rating was given each marital value and factor by the subjects who had completed graduate work as opposed to participants with high school or below. The higher the educational level the higher the rating for reasons for marriage and reasons for staying married.

The analysis between Protestants, Catholics, and "Others" revealed that Catholics seem to be more aware of all considerations in marriage. Education, intelligence of mate, business and economic factors played an important part in determining the mates for Catholics. The research shows that Catholics looked beyond mutual attraction and

love and sexual fulfillment to the more practical side of marriage that deals with daily economics.

The research yielded significant differences between Christians and unbelievers. Overall the marital satisfaction proved to be less among unbelievers and the unconcerned, and greater among Christians and other religious subjects. The unbelievers evidenced more hostility, unhappiness, and indifference in their marriage than any other group.

Marital satisfaction before and after children revealed that men rate their marriages higher after children are born and women rate the marriage lower. Marital satisfaction for women probably decreases after children because of all the extra pressure and responsibility of being a being a mother and wife. Negroes seem to experience less satisfaction with their marriages after the birth of children. Protestants rated their marital satisfaction lower after children were born and greater after the children were grown and had left home. Born-again believers experienced greater happiness in their marriages after children were born, while unbelievers evidenced a significant decrease in marital satisfaction. An interesting result showed that unbelievers are much happier after the children are grown and leave home, and that religious people experience a decrease in marital satisfaction. Perhaps children in unbelieving homes are viewed more as a

"duty and responsibility" than a "joy and blessing." It may be that religious people invest a lot of time and energy in their children and when they leave home a void is created in the family unit and within the marital relationship.

"MARRIAGE VALUES" QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS IS AN ANONYMOUS QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME.

AGE:____ ETHNIC BACKGROUND: CAUCASIAN___ ORIENTAL___
NEGRO___ AMERICAN INDIAN___ SPANISH___
OTHER___

MALE___ FEMALE___ STATE RESIDENCY_____

MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED___ SEPARATED___ REMARRIED___
WIDOWED___

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL: HIGH SCHOOL OR BELOW___ HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE___ SOME COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING___ COLLEGE DEGREE___ GRADUATE WORK___

WERE YOU A VIRGIN AT MARRIAGE? YES___ NO___

RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE: PROTESTANT___ CATHOLIC___ JEWISH___
OTHER___

RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR COMMITMENT OR INVOLVEMENT? RANK 1 AND 2 THE TWO DESCRIPTIONS THAT BEST INDICATE YOUR COMMITMENT.

_____ATTEND CHURCH REGULARLY	_____UNBELIEVER
_____A CHRISTIAN	_____SKEPTIC
_____A BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER	_____UNCONCERNED
_____A SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVER	_____ATTEND CHURCH IRREGULARLY
_____CHARISMATIC	_____UNRELIGIOUS
_____RELIGIOUS	_____OTHER:_____

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED?_____ (In case of second marriages, answer questions concerning your present situation.)

First, place a six (6) in front of the items that you consider most important. Second, place a five (5) in front of the items that you consider of next importance--above average, but not of most importance. Finally, continue in this same manner until all of the items have been rated--using a four (4) to designate average importance; and three (3) just below average; a two (2) of least importance; and a one (1) of no importance at all. (NOTE: Use a one (1) only if there are items that are totally irrelevant, unimportant, or undesired on your part. DO NOT LEAVE ANY SPACES BLANK.)

6 . . . Most important

5 . . . Above average importance

4 . . . Average importance

3 . . . Below average

2 . . . Least importance

1 . . . No importance at all

1. Why did you marry?

____ Favorable Social Status of Mate (Rates socially, prominent, popular)

____ Desire for Home and Children (Family mindedness)

____ Good Financial Prospect

____ Sexual Attractiveness and Fulfillment

____ "Expected" of family and Society to Marry

____ Business and Economic Reasons

____ Mutual Attraction, Love (Romantic Appeal)

____ Education and Intelligence of Mate

____ Similarity in Religion

____ Similarity in Education

____ Dependable Character of Mate (sincere, honest, reliable, can be trusted)

____ Emotional Stability

____ Security

____ Companionship

2. How would you describe your present marital relationship?

____ Companionate relationship (companionship)

____ Love relationship

____ Economic arrangement

____ Comfortable relationship

____ Stressful situation

____ Violent relationship

____ Unhappy relationship

____ Unrewarding

____ Hostile

____ Total Indifference

____ Compassionate and romantic

____ Complete happiness and satisfaction

____ Other_____

3. Why do you stay married?

____ Love

____ Children

____ Religious Reasons

____ Economic Reasons

____ Security

____ Status

____ Business Reasons

____ Family or Parental Expectations

____ Physical Attraction

____ Sexual Outlet

____ Social Reasons

____ Health

4. Do you have children? Yes____ No____

Ages of children_____

5. Rank marital satisfaction <u>before</u> the children were born. Circle the number.

<u>Highest</u>				<u>Lowest</u>
1	2	3	4	5

6. Rank marital satisfaction <u>after</u> children were born. Circle the number.

Highest				Lowest
1	2	3	4	5

7. If your children are no longer living at home, (due to school, marriage, etc.) rate your marital satisfaction since their leaving.

Better		Same		Worse
1	2	3	4	5

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ABSTRACT

MARITAL VALUES AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MARRIAGE STABILITY

by Brenda Clanton Rambo
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The purpose of the current research was to determine if there were significant subject differences in reasons for marriage and staying married when compared by sex, age, ethnic groups, educational levels, religious preference, and degree of religious commitment. A second purpose was to show how the degree of marital satisfaction changes after the birth of children, and after children are grown and leave home.

The "Marriage Values" Questionnaire was developed to include five major sections: (1) demographic information, (2) Why did you marry?, (3) Describe your present marital relationship., (4) Why do you stay married? and (5) Marital satisfaction.

The subjects used for the research included 305 participants ranging in age from 18 to 80. Subject data was analyzed by age, sex, ethnic groups, educational levels, religious preference, and level of religious commitment.

The data was statistically compiled and analyzed by using analyses of variance. Variables were rank ordered and correlated.

The research revealed that men and women marry and remain married for the same reasons. The greatest variance occurred between the educational levels.

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Analysis of marital satisfaction before and after children revealed that for most subjects marital satisfaction slightly decreased, except for those classed as "born-again" Christians who experienced greater happiness after children. An interesting result showed that unbelievers are much happier after the children are grown and leave home, and that religious people experience a decrease in marital satisfaction after the children leave.